

Patent Claims

1. An electromagnetic switching device, in particular a contactor, having an electromagnetic drive apparatus (2) and having at least one electrical contact (5), which can be moved from a disconnected position to a bridging position by the electromagnetic drive apparatus (2) when a pull-in current (I) is applied to the electromagnetic drive apparatus (2), with the contact (5) being closed in the bridging position and being open in the disconnected position, characterized

in that the contact (5) can be mechanically blocked in the disconnected position by means of a locking element (11) which can be connected to the switching device and can be blocked in the disconnected position when the switching device is completely installed, so that the contact (5) is locked in the disconnected position even when the pull-in current (I) is applied to the electromagnetic drive apparatus (2).

2. The switching device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the contact (5) can be blocked in a locking element holder (9) by insertion of the locking element (11).

3. The switching device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the locking element holder (9) is open on both sides.

4. The switching device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the locking element holder (9) is open on only one side.

5. The switching device as claimed in one of the

- 11a -

above claims,

characterized

in that the locking element is held captive in the
switching device of a contact link support which
5 operates the contact.

- 12 -

6. The switching device as claimed in one of the above claims, characterized

5 in that the switching device has an additional switch (14) which can be connected in a circuit via which the pull-in current (I) can be applied to the electromagnetic drive apparatus (2).

7. The switching device as claimed in claim 6, characterized
10 in that the additional switch (14) is arranged and designed such that it is opened when the contact (5) is mechanically blocked.

15 8. The switching device as claimed in one of the above claims, characterized
in that the switching device has a basic appliance (1) and an additional appliance (7) which is connected to
20 the basic appliance (1), in that the contact (5) is arranged in the basic appliance (1), and in that the locking element (11) is connected to the additional appliance (7), at least when the contact is mechanically blocked in the disconnected position.

25 9. The switching device as claimed in claim 8, characterized
in that the additional appliance (7) is connected to the basic appliance (1) non-detachably at least when
30 the contact (5) is mechanically blocked in the disconnected position.

10. The switching device as claimed in claim 8 or 9, characterized
35 in that the additional appliance (7) is latched to the basic appliance (1).

- 12a -

11. 'The 'switching device as claimed in claim 8, 9 or 10,

characterized

in that the additional appliance (7) is adjacent to the
5 basic appliance (1) on an appliance side which runs
parallel to a movement direction

- 13 -

(x) 'of a' contact link support (4) which operates the contact (5).

12. The switching device as claimed in claim 8, 9 or
5 10,
characterized
in that the additional appliance (7) is adjacent to the
basic appliance (1) on an appliance side which runs at
right angles to a movement direction (x) of a contact
10 link support (4) which operates the contact (5).

13. The switching device as claimed in one of claims 6
and 7 and one of claims 8 to 12,
characterized
15 in that the additional switch (14) is arranged in the
additional appliance (7).

14. The switching device as claimed in one of the
above claims,
20 characterized
in that an auxiliary switch housing (15) can be
connected to the switching device and has an auxiliary
switch (16) arranged in it, which can be operated
together with the contact (5) by a contact link support
25 (4) which operates the contact (5).

15. The switching device as claimed in claim 14,
characterized
in that the auxiliary switch (16) can be operated -
30 directly or indirectly - by the contact link support
(4) without any play.